

popular choice. The ambitions of prominent men in every part of the State were played upon, by the manipulators of the secret caucus, to persuade them to enter the contest for the prize, in order to make local and county pride effective, to seduce Vardaman men in the legislature from their allegiance to him. The secret ballot was devised to conceal from the constituents of these legislators how their ballots were cast for Senator. This plan was successful; the secret method employed, and the combinations made were effective to elect, after many days, LeRoy Percy, of Greenville, to fill out the unexpired term of Senator McLaurin, by a majority of two in the Secret Caucus.

The story of the debauchery attempted by some of the opponents of Mr. Vardaman in that unholy conspiracy to send the United States Senate a man who was not wanted by the people whom he was presumed to represent, does not make pleasant reading for patriotic Mississippians, so we will not, here, dwell upon it.

#### THE DULANEY BRIBERY INCIDENT.

Mr. Bilbo, always an ardent supporter of Mr. Vardaman, early became a conspicuous champion of the people's choice; and was both zealous and unfaltering in that behalf. Every means that intrigue and corruption could suggest were exhausted to make a break in the Vardaman ranks. Finally L. C. Dulaney, a friend and ardent partisan of LeRoy Percy, approached Mr. Bilbo and offered him a bribe of one thousand dollars to vote for LeRoy Percy. Of this amount he paid \$645.00 to Mr. Bilbo, who reported the transaction to the grand jury of Hinds county, turning the money over to that body which promptly found a true bill charging bribery against Dulaney, who, when his case was called for trial, did not dare face a jury of Hinds county, where the offense was committed, but got a change of venue to Yazoo county, where before Judge W. A. Henry, he was acquitted.

As every unprejudiced observer saw the motive of the defense and of the court, in this trial, was to save Dulaney from the penitentiary by discrediting Mr. Bilbo, the chief witness against him, it was soon made clear that the plan and purpose of the whole trial was not to determine the innocence or guilt of the man indicted, but, if possible, to convict Theodore Bilbo of every infamy known to the calendar of shame and dishonor, and thus destroy a man whom they feared, above all others, in the political battle then impending.

To this end, the invention of evil minds, bad hearts, and slanderous tongues was exhausted; smart lawyers, supported by the man on the bench, applied themselves diligently and skillfully to the task, not of defending their client, but of blackening the reputation of Dulaney's accuser before a jury of strangers to him. They did not dare undertake such a shameful proceeding in Jackson or anywhere else that Mr. Bilbo was known. Hence the change of venue to Yazoo City and a verdict of acquittal for Dulaney.

#### TAKES HIS CAUSE TO THE PEOPLE.

Senator Bilbo then realized that the verdict which acquitted Dulaney would be translated, by his enemies, into a condemnation of himself. So then and there, he resolved to appeal his case to a higher tribunal; to take it to the sovereign people of Mississippi and accordingly, from six hundred platforms in six hundred speeches, before the people of every county in Mississippi, he denounced that judge and his rulings; he pursued with a whip of scorpions, the slanderers who sought to blacken his good name, the politicians who sought to defame and destroy

him. They knew that, in the Senate, Theodore Bilbo had demonstrated that he was not easily cowered, and perhaps did not expect him to passively submit to the outrage put upon him. But they did not dream of the tempest of righteous wrath which they had unloosed; they had no conception of the brave and resolute spirit which they had aroused, and perhaps did not fully realize what they had done, until the people of Mississippi, at the polls, in August following, confounded them with an amazing vote of confidence in the man whom they sought to destroy, which was a withering rebuke to his enemies.

He was chosen Lieutenant Governor by an overwhelming majority over both of his opponents, in the first primary, and this majority was capped in his home county, by such a vote of confidence as was never given before to any man in the history of Mississippi politics. Out of twelve hundred votes he received more than a thousand; at his own voting precinct and the adjacent precinct, he received every vote that was cast in that election. Match that record if you can, ye slanderers and assassins of character! Match it or shut up! And remembered he made this fight single handed and alone, against the most stupendous odds that every confronted any man in any undertaking. He was nobody's candidate but his own; he took his cause in his own hands, and presented it to the people of Mississippi; he was triumphantly justified.

#### BREWER'S ATTEMPT TO DESTROY HIM.

He was elected Lieutenant Governor and duly installed. He had proven his strength and his wonderful hold upon the confidence and affections of the people of his State. Earl Brewer had slipped into the Governor's chair, while the people were occupied in righting the wrong done Vardaman and Bilbo, by unscrupulous politicians; nobody was looking, and Earl Brewer, cunningly slipped in. The man's character has been so fully revealed in recent records of shame and infamy and gross prostitution of his high office to the basest of personal ends, that no recital of that malodorous history is necessary here. Earl Brewer's intelligence all runs to cunning; he sought at first to make an alliance with Lieutenant Governor Bilbo, for the purpose of promoting his own political fortunes. Mr. Bilbo declined. He then determined, that with unlimited money at his command, and servile judges to do his bidding, he could destroy this formidable figure in Mississippi affairs, whose strength he could not use for his personal ends.

Accordingly he employed the greatest detective agency on earth, subsidized as many newspapers as possible and through judges willing to do their master's bidding, undertook to destroy the man whom he could not use. He exhausted every resource of his high office and spent many thousand dollars of the people's money, only to land himself in a pit of infamy, and elevate the Lieutenant Governor still higher in the respect and love and confidence of his fellow citizens.

All of this shameful record is of recent writing and needs no repetition here. Suffice it that Theodore Bilbo came out of that fierce ordeal whited by the fires that assailed him, while they blackened, beyond any cleansing, the names of those who knidled the flames of persecution.

The unflinching courage, endurance and resolution of Theodore Bilbo in battle against fearful odds, are striking characteristics that command our admiration; but not less remarkable is the splendid

mental equipment of the man that compels our respect, and the loyalty to principles that appeals to our confidence. These are the qualities which have distinguished his public life and career, and with which all are familiar. Everybody knows that Theodore Bilbo is brave and loyal and steadfast; everybody recognizes that he is a very able man.

But his friends who are privileged to know him intimately, recognize many other qualities in him that still further explain the wonderful hold that he has upon the confidence and affection of his home people. They know that he is clean and honest, and upright; they know that he never betrayed a trust or the confidence of a friend; they know that he is warm hearted, and generous; unselfish and true; they know that his home life is sweet, serene and altogether beautiful.

He lives on a small farm, in a modest house, near Poplarville, every aspect of which and every incident of its furnishing and housekeeping breathes the essence of a home where good taste, refinement and culture rule; where Love is sovereign, and Peace his minister.

He is blessed with a noble wife of good heart and gentle disposition, supplemented by a rare degree of culture and fine intelligence. His daughter, Miss Jessie Forest Bilbo, and little son of four years, named Theodore Junior, complete the happy domestic circle to which Mr. Bilbo so frequently returns for new strength and inspiration, when worn and spent in the moil and toil of political battle and struggle.

Back of all of his accomplishment, animating and sustaining his endeavor, and largely contributing to his success, lie the potent influence and inspiration of an ideal home life.

This, in brief, is the real Theodore Gilmore Bilbo, who has been more grossly misrepresented, villified and caricatured than any other man in the history of the State.

#### OFFICIAL VOTE OF PEARL RIVER COUNTY 1911.

Precincts.	Bilbo.	Nash.	Yowell.
Poplarville .....	163	37	16
Orvisburg .....	13	3	6
Hillsdale .....	61	12	12
H. Grove .....	40	2	0
Lee's Mill .....	23	5	5
Perkins .....	32	0	0
Alliance Hall .....	44	0	0
Derby .....	64	2	7
Wesley Chapel .....	49	1	1
B. Chapel .....	50	16	6
K. Creek .....	42	6	4
Yamacraw .....	80	2	1
McNeil .....	52	23	16
Carriere .....	94	24	9
Richardson .....	28	4	0
Caesar .....	34	2	1
Picayune .....	114	15	15
Nicholson .....	51	7	3
Total .....	1,054	161	99

#### A Man of Convictions.

We believe that in Mr. Bilbo will be found a man who not only has convictions and pronounced ones, at that, but who will embody them in his administration of government if elected to the gubernatorial office and given a legislature in sympathy with his policies. We believe that his platform policies will not melt away into thin air, and that he will live, officially, the principles which have come to be synonymous with his name and his campaign against greed and graft, against public corruption and against malfeasance in office.—Clarksdale Challenge.